

INFORMATION LETTER

Not for
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

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Washington, D. C.

May 22, 1948

Letter Will Be Delayed to Report May Meeting

Publication of the next issue of the INFORMATION LETTER will be delayed so as to report fully to the membership on the meetings of the Board of Directors, Administrative Council, and certain Committees, that are to be held in Washington next week. The issue will be published as soon after Memorial Day as possible.

In event of developments requiring immediate action, information will be supplied the membership by special bulletin. The next regular issue of the LETTER, following the edition covering the proceedings of the May meetings, will be mailed June 12.

Due to commitments made before N.C.A. meetings were arranged, the Shoreham Hotel will be unable to accommodate those attending May meetings beyond 6 p.m., Friday, May 28.

The OMC in Chicago plans to issue invitations next week to bid on approximately 400,000 cases of surplus canned sweetpotatoes from the 1946 pack. In accordance with an agreement made this week with Congressmen from selected States, the Army will not accept bids above \$1.80 a case.

Canned Fruit Pack Bulletin

The booklet, *Canned Food Pack Statistics: 1947, Part II—Fruits*, has been completed by the Division of Statistics and will be mailed next week to N.C.A. members, all other fruit canners, the canning trade papers, and the State secretaries. The National Food Brokers Association also is making a distribution of the bulletin.

The publication gives the 1947 canned fruit pack by States and by size of containers, and compares the 1947 production with the pack of five previous years. Members desiring additional copies may obtain them by writing to the Association's Division of Statistics.

FitzGerald to Address Board

Dr. D. A. FitzGerald, head of the food division of the Economic Cooperation Administration, will address the luncheon meeting of the Association's Board of Directors, Friday, May 28, at Hotel Shoreham, Washington, D. C. He will cover the ECA phases of a general discussion of Government procurement which is scheduled as one of the important subjects on the Directors' agenda.

Since announcement of meeting plans in last week's INFORMATION LETTER it has been decided to hold a meeting of the Fishery Products Committee at 10 a. m., Tuesday, at Association headquarters.

The tentative sequence of subjects to be considered by the Board at their two-day meeting has been completed. Subject to change, the program now calls for the following items on the Thursday morning, May 27, session: Opening Remarks by President Howard T. Cumming; Report of the Buildings Committee by H. N. Riley, who will make the presentation in the absence of Chairman W. F. Dietrich; a discussion of Freight Damage Prevention by Robert B. Heiney of the Association staff; and Report on Insurance by Vice-president John F. McGovern. (See *FitzGerald*, page 211)

Green Pea Acreage Will Be Smaller in 1948, BAE Reports

The acreage planted or to be planted in 1948 to green peas for canning and freezing will total 433,580 acres, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This acreage will be about 6 percent less than the 1947 planting of 458,740 acres and compares with the 1937-46 average of 412,660 acres. As of May 15, green pea growers in the northern tier of States still had considerable acreage to plant for processing. The reduction from 1947 plantings in the South Atlantic group of States, consisting of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, amounts to 37 percent. The acreage planted in each of these States for 1948 is the lowest on record, BAE reports. Wisconsin proc- (See *Green Pea Acreage*, page 208)

N.C.A. Opposes Transfer of Fish and Wildlife Service

The Association on May 18 filed with the House Committee on Agriculture a statement in opposition to certain provisions of the Hope bill, H. R. 6054, which would establish a national policy and program for the conservation and orderly development of the nation's agricultural land and water resources (see INFORMATION LETTER of April 3, page 164). The Association's statement was filed in opposition to the section of the bill which would transfer to a proposed new Agricultural Resources Administration the Fish

and Wildlife Service of the Department of Interior, and pointed out the lack of relationship between many of the activities of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the proposed ARA to which its transfer is proposed. The statement further pointed out that the administrator to be appointed would be chosen on the basis of knowledge of land resources of the nation, and that such an administrator could not be expected to have knowledge of fishery resources, especially the salt water fisheries of the nation.

The Association's statement also pointed out that the present method of handling domestic fishery matters is in need of complete study and offered its facilities to assist in such a study.

Food and Drug Permits Use of 'Jack Mackerel' Label

The use of the label term "jack mackerel" on interstate shipments of canned *Trachurus symmetricus* (formerly labeled "horse mackerel") has been authorized by the Food and Drug Administration.

In a letter granting such authority, L. D. Elliot, Assistant Commissioner of Food and Drugs, wrote Don Loker of the California Fish Processors Association on May 3 that to ensure that the label term "jack mackerel" will not be misleading, labels should display the word "jack" in the same size, color and style of letters as the word "mackerel." It was suggested that the scientific name also should be included on the label.

Copies of Dr. Elliot's letter to Mr. Loker have been sent to all fish canners. Additional copies may be secured from the Association's Fishery Products Division.

Pack of Anchovies, Mackerel and Squid for California

The total of anchovies packed in California during March came to 34,449 cases, according to the California Sardine Products Institute. This total consisted of 1,106 cases of 1-lb. ovals and talls; 32,861 cases of 8-oz. 48's; 50 cases of ¼-lb. 48's and 432 cases of ½-lb. 96's.

The Institute also reported that during March, 21,407 cases of canned mackerel were packed in the following sizes: 19,687 cases of 1-lb. talls and 1,720 cases of miscellaneous sizes. In addition, 9,256 cases of 1-lb. squid were packed in California.

STATISTICS

Canned Fruit and Vegetable Stocks and Shipments

The following tables, compiled from recent reports issued by the N.C.A.'s Division of Statistics, compare canner stocks and shipments of canned carrots, beets, and red pitted cherries. Complete reports on these canned foods have been mailed by the Association to all canners packing these items.

Canned Carrots Stocks and Shipments (Shown in actual cases)

	Mar. 1, 1948	May 1, 1948	Shipments through Mar.-Apr.
East.....	59,959	40,536	19,423
Mid-West.....	293,058	50,498	154,560
West.....	299,530	106,176	193,354
Total.....	584,547	197,210	367,337

Canned Beets Stocks and Shipments (Shown in actual cases)

	Mar. 1, 1948	May 1, 1948	Shipments through Mar.-Apr.
East.....	543,287	294,170	249,117
Mid-West.....	674,521	354,790	319,731
West.....	350,673	163,693	187,080
Total.....	1,568,481	812,553	755,928

Stocks and Shipments Red Pitted Cherries

State	Total Cases
New York and Pennsylvania	
May stocks.....	967
Shipments for April.....	4,324
Shipments, July 1 to May 1.....	312,694
Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio	
May stocks.....	7,611
Shipments for April.....	10,103
Shipments, July 1 to May 1.....	2,019,197
Western States	
May stocks.....	2,914
Shipments for April.....	5,137
Shipments, July 1 to May 1.....	104,699
Total United States	
May stocks.....	11,492
Shipments for April.....	25,564
Shipments, July 1 to May 1.....	2,436,590

Green Pea Acreage

(Concluded from page 207)

processors have reduced their acreage from last year 11 percent—5 percent less than average. This is the smallest planted acreage since 1940. Partially offsetting this reduction in Wisconsin are increases in other North Central States of 5 percent for Minnesota, 7 percent in Michigan, 14 percent in Illinois, and 38 percent for Indiana.

New York processors have contracted with growers for nearly twice as much acreage for 1948 as was

planted in 1947, when rains were excessive. Reductions in other North-eastern States range from 25 percent in Pennsylvania to 6 percent in New Jersey, according to BAE.

In the Northwestern States this year's acreage is about 12 percent below 1947, but is still over a third more than average. The expansion in recent years has been particularly rapid in Idaho, Oregon and Washington, where a large portion of the crop is frozen.

For the United States as a whole, it is estimated that 92,400 acres or more than a fifth of the total acreage planted for all processing in 1948 will be harvested for freezing. This is a slight increase over 1947 and 80 percent more than the 8-year (1939-46) average.

Of the 433,580 acres planted or to be planted in 1948 for processing, it is estimated that 77.3 percent or 335,270 acres consist of sweet wrinkled varieties and 22.7 percent or 98,310 acres consist of Alaska type. Of the 458,740 acres planted in 1947, 341,620 acres or 74.5 percent consist of sweet wrinkled varieties and 117,120 acres or 25.5 percent were planted to Alaska type peas.

Preliminary acreage of peas for processing, as reported by BAE, follows:

State and area	Intended in 1948 Preliminary Acres	As percent of 1947 Percent
Maine.....	6,280	89
New York.....	41,000	192
New Jersey.....	4,400	94
Pennsylvania.....	11,900	75
North Atlantic.....	63,580	129.8
Ohio.....	2,600	93
Indiana.....	4,700	138
Illinois.....	21,000	114
Michigan.....	7,700	107
Wisconsin.....	125,200	89
Minnesota.....	45,800	108
Iowa.....	2,100	45
North Central.....	209,100	94.7
Maryland.....	7,200	61
Delaware.....	1,500	56
Virginia.....	1,700	85
South Atlantic.....	10,400	62.7
Idaho.....	12,100	89
Colorado.....	4,200	84
Utah.....	9,900	82
Washington.....	60,000	91
Oregon.....	54,000	87
California.....	4,700	87
Western.....	144,000	88.2
Other States ¹	5,600	69
U. S. Total.....	433,580	94.5

¹ Ark., Ga., Kans., Mont., Nebr., Okla., Tenn., Texas, and Wyo.

CONGRESS

Fish and Wildlife Functions

Abolition of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the transfer of its functions to an independent Government agency to be known as the Fish and Wildlife Commission was proposed on May 14 by Representative Tollefson (Wash.) with the introduction of H. R. 6577.

The Commission would consist of five Commissioners appointed by the President for staggered terms of seven years each, with annual salaries of \$12,000 each. Two of the Commissioners would be "fully acquainted with the commercial fishing interest, two with the wildlife interest, and one with the public interest."

The transfer would become effective on August 1, under the terms of the bill.

Clam Studies Authorized

The House on May 18 passed and sent to the President S. 1979, directing the Fish and Wildlife Service to undertake certain studies of soft-shell and hard-shell clams.

Long-Range Farm Legislation

Legislation providing a long-range agricultural policy and program, which was reported to the Senate on May 13 as an amended version of S. 2318, "is designed to accomplish two major objectives," the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry has stated.

"First, the bill provides for the coordination of agricultural programs at the National, State, and county levels. The operations of the Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration are combined at the national level as the Bureau of Agricultural Conservation and Improvement. It further provides for close coordination at State and local levels of those programs with other Federal and State agencies dealing with farmers. The programs at the local and State levels will be coordinated largely by farmer-elected county and State committees which will help formulate policy and develop programs as well as administer them in cooperation with the Secretary of Agriculture. The work now being done by local soil-conservation districts will continue to be administered as at present.

"Second, the bill provides for a flexible price-support program for agricultural commodities adjusted to the supply and designed to obtain fair prices for farm products and assure abundant production. It is the opinion of the committee that such a program

will help stabilize the national economy while aiding the agricultural economy of this country."

Of the proposed price-support program, the Committee said:

"The most significant feature of the price-support program embodied in the bill is that price supports are provided on a flexible basis which is intended to be self-adjusting to the supply of farm products. The basic support level shall be 75 percent of parity when the supply of farm products is at a normal level.

"Products other than the six basic commodities and wool are to be supported at not more than 90 percent of parity, no lower limit being named. The degree of support must depend, at least for perishable commodities, upon the funds available. The Commodity Credit Corporation may support the price of storable farm commodities after taking into consideration the following factors:

"1. A supply of the commodity in relation to the demand therefor.

"2. Price levels at which other commodities are being supported.

"3. The availability of funds.

"4. The perishability of the commodity.

"5. Its importance to agriculture and the national economy.

"6. The ability to dispose of stores acquired through a price-support operation.

"7. The ability and willingness of producers to keep supplies in line with demand.

"Under the price-support plans as set forth in the bill the intention is to help provide an abundant food supply while at the same time supporting a sound national economy. The plan is essentially one of placing a floor under farm prices at a level which will not encourage overexpansion in the production of any particular commodity, but will keep all commodities in balance with each other."

Extension of Tin Controls

The House Committee on Banking and Currency was scheduled to complete hearings yesterday on H. R. 6571, which would continue Executive authority to allocate tin and other scarce materials through February 28, 1949.

This measure was introduced by Chairman Wolcott (Mich.) on May 14, but his Committee has been unable to complete hearings on the bill due to the early morning hours at which the House has met this week. Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer told the

Committee on May 18 that present authority should be continued.

Studies of Monopolistic Practices

Chairman Ploeser (Mo.) announced on May 17 that the House Small Business Committee will begin a thorough investigation of "monopolistic practices and other unfair methods of competition."

The investigation already is in progress under the direction of Representative Hill (Colo.), whose subcommittee has begun a general survey and analysis. The entire committee will take part in the investigation and will hold hearings throughout the country beginning in the fall, Representative Ploeser stated.

The study is being initiated at the request of 23 organizations representing more than 1,000,000 independent businessmen. The National Association of Retail Grocers is among these 23 groups.

Food and Drug Act Amendment

Penalties for violation of any of the acts prohibited by the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act would be imposed only on persons who committed the violations "willfully or as a result of gross negligence," under the terms of a proposal made on May 17 by Senator Moore (Okla.).

This amendment to the food and drug law is intended to be proposed by Senator Moore when the Miller bill, H. R. 4071, is under Senate consideration. H. R. 4071 is the so-called seizure bill, and has been passed by the House.

Census of Manufactures

H. R. 6208, a bill which would require the collection and publication of the census of manufactures every five years, has been reported to the House by the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service. The first such census required by the bill would be in 1954.

Clayton Act Amendment

A subcommittee of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary has reported to the full Committee recommending favorable action on S. 104, a bill to prohibit sales of physical assets between competing corporations. The full Committee meets on Monday, May 24, to receive the subcommittee report.

Sweetpotato Standards

The *Federal Register* of May 15 publishes a notice of proposed U. S. Standards for Sweetpotatoes, to supersede standards that have been in effect since July 22, 1946.

PROCUREMENT

NEW REGULATION ESTABLISHES UNIFORMITY IN PURCHASES

Joint Procurement Manual Favors 'Responsible Bidders' and Small Businesses

An Armed Services Procurement Regulation establishing uniform procurement methods and procedures for all contracting officers and purchasing agencies of the Army, Navy and Air Force, which was issued on May 19, is designed to assure uniform treatment of business matters throughout all armed services purchasing operations and to eliminate industrial problems resulting from the lack of uniform military procurement regulations in the past.

The Regulation was prepared in accordance with a Presidential directive stating that there exists the "danger that the natural desire for flexibility and speed in procurement will lead to excessive placement of contracts by negotiation and undue reliance on large concerns." All procurement personnel are enjoined to follow strictly the standards and requirements set forth in the Regulation, which was compiled cooperatively by the three services under the supervision of the Munitions Board.

Use of Formal Advertising

The order defines, and then prescribes in detail, the procedures to be followed in procurement by formal advertising—the method by which the Army is buying canned foods—and by negotiation. In directions on the award of contracts, the Regulation favors a "responsible bidder," which is defined, in part, in paragraph 1-201.9 as "a person or firm regularly carrying a stock of the supplies being procured, and having a warehouse or place of business from which sales are made." The order states:

"Award shall be made with reasonable promptness by written notice to that responsible bidder whose bid, conforming to the invitation for bids, will be most advantageous to the Government, price and other factors considered, provided that an award shall not be made to other than the lowest responsible bidder except in accordance with procedures prescribed by each respective Department. Award will be effected by mailing or delivering to the bidder a properly executed award or preliminary notice of award."

It is to be noted by canners that the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act

prohibits the employment of oppressive child labor and requires payment of time and one-half for work performed over eight hours a day or over 40 hours a week on a Government contract, effective with the date of notice of award. Violations of any provision of the Walsh-Healey Act will render bidders ineligible for future awards, the Regulation points out.

Concerning the award, the Regulation states:

"*Responsible Bidder.* A 'responsible bidder' is a bidder who satisfies all of the following requirements:

"(a) is a manufacturer or regular dealer, as defined in paragraph 1-201.9;

"(b) is financially and otherwise able to perform the contract; and

"(c) is otherwise qualified and eligible by law and under this regulation.

"*Discounts.* In determining which of several bids received is the lowest, any discount offered shall be deducted from the bid price under the assumption that the discount shall be taken, unless it is known with reasonable certainty that the Government cannot take advantage of the discount within the time specified. If, when the bids are opened, facts become known which render it necessary to disregard a discount, a full statement of the facts and circumstances and of the reasons for the action taken shall be entered upon the abstract or record of bids and on U. S. Standard Form 1036 (as referred to in paragraph 2-406.5) whenever such bid would have been the lowest bid received if the discount offered were taken.

"*Other Factors to be Considered.* Among other factors besides price that may be considered in making an award are the following:

"(a) judgment, skill, and integrity of a bidder;

"(b) reputation and experience of a bidder, and prior work of a similar nature done by him;

"(c) foreseeable costs or delays to the Government resulting from differences in inspection, shipping, location of supplies, etc.;

"(d) changes made or requested in any of the provisions of the solicitation, to the extent that any such change does not constitute ground for rejection of the bid under the provisions of paragraph 2-403;

"(e) restrictions or conditions imposed in the bid; and

"(f) advantages or disadvantages to the Government that might result from making multiple awards."

It is specified that "it shall be the policy of each Department to place with small business concerns (herein considered to be any concern which employs fewer than 500 persons) a fair proportion of the total procurement of supplies and services for that Department." To this end, the Regulation requires submission of an annual report of the total value of all contracts with small business concerns.

The Regulation also prescribes information which must be included in invitations to bid, bid blanks, and attached schedules; instructions on methods of soliciting bids; and conditions governing submission of bids. Provision also is made for the contracting officer to correct obvious or apparent mistakes of a clerical nature, such as obvious discount errors, or erroneous quotations of a lower price f.o.b. destination than f.o.b. factory; and, under certain conditions, to correct mistakes other than those of a clerical nature.

Negotiated Buying Outlined

One-third of the Armed Services Procurement Regulation prescribes requirements governing the procurement of supplies and services by negotiation. Circumstances permitting negotiation are limited to conditions enumerated in the Armed Services Procurement Act (P.L. 413—80th Congress). These do not permit purchases of canned foods by negotiation except after bid prices, after formal advertising, "are not reasonable," and during national emergencies.

Copies of the Armed Services Procurement Regulation are available for 25 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

Canner Not Liable to QMC When Weather Reduces Pack

A finding by a contracting officer in the Army Quartermaster Corps that a canner's failure to fulfill a contract with the U. S. Government was due to causes beyond the canner's control is binding on the Government, according to a recent decision by the U. S. Court of Claims.

The canner in this case contracted to supply the Government with 18,000 dozen No. 10 cans of blackberries. Because of adverse weather conditions, the canner was unable to fulfill the contract, despite strenuous efforts to do so. The contract provided that

the canner should not be liable for failure to fulfill the contract in certain specified cases, including "unusually severe weather," and in such cases the contracting officer was directed to ascertain the facts. The contracting officer made a finding that the canner's failure to fulfill the contract was due to causes beyond the canner's control. The Court of Claims in its opinion held that this finding by the contracting officer was binding on the Government and that the canner was not liable for failure to complete the contract.

Invitations to Bid

★ **QMC Offices**—Quartermaster Corps, 111 East 16th Street, New York, N. Y.; Chicago Quartermaster Purchasing Office, 1819 West Pershing Road, Chicago 9, Ill.; Western Branch, Chicago Quartermaster Purchasing Office, Oakland Army Base, Oakland 14, Calif.

The Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act will apply to all operations performed after the date of notice of award if the total value of a contract is \$10,000 or over.

The Army has invited sealed bids to furnish the following:

CANNED PEARS—303,564 dozen No. 2½ and 84,866 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Oakland under serial No. QM-04-493-48-151 by June 7.

EVAPORATED MILK—85,057 cases of 14½-oz. cans. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-48-775 by May 25.

EVAPORATED MILK—83,815 cases of 14½-oz. cans. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-48-797 by May 25.

FitzGerald to Address Board

(Concluded from page 207)

The Thursday afternoon program is as follows: Report of the Nominating Committee for the Executive Committee of the Board by Chairman H. E. Apple, Jr.; Financial Statement and Recommendations of the Administrative Council by Chairman Marc C. Hutchinson; Report of the Public Relations Committee by Henry Taylor for Chairman B. C. Olney; Report of the Home Economics Committee by Chairman W. E. Beach; Report on Food Standards by Dr. E. J. Cameron, Director of the Washington Laboratories; Report of the Labeling Committee by Chairman H. J. Humphrey; Report of the Convention Committee

by Chairman Robert A. Friend; and Report of the Fishery Products Committee.

The Friday morning session will contain these topics: Agricultural Program by J. P. King, Chairman of the Association's Raw Products Committee; Status of Legislation by John F. McGovern, Chairman of the Legislative Committee; and Government Procurement, with special speakers to be assigned to cover Army and CCC.

As previously announced, the following meetings will be held preliminary to the Board session:

Tuesday, May 25—Buildings and Fishery Products Committees, 10 a. m., and Convention Committee, 2 p. m., Association headquarters.

Wednesday, May 26—Labeling Committee, 8:30 a. m., Association headquarters; Administrative Council, 10:30 a. m., New Ball Room, Shoreham Hotel; Association of State Secretaries, 2 p. m., Green Room, Shoreham Hotel; Scientific Research Committee, 4 p. m., Association headquarters.

PERSONNEL

Wood Joins Glass Institute

Benjamin Wood has been named Director of Marketing for the Glass Container Manufacturers Institute, according to an announcement by R. L. Warren, President. Mr. Wood for the past ten years has been Managing Director of the Tea Bureau, Inc.

Prior to his association with the Tea Bureau, Mr. Wood has been identified for many years with advertising and publishing. He probably is best known in research circles as originator of the *Cleveland Press* "Pantry Shelf Survey," a basic research technique used by more than 20 newspapers on a continuing basis.

Association Officers

Monterey Fish Processors Association

Officers of the Monterey Fish Processors Association elected for the forthcoming year at that organization's annual meeting held recently, are as follows:

President—Clifton D. Day, San Carlos Canning Co.; vice president—S. A. Ferrante, Oxnard Cannery, Inc.; secretary-treasurer—Sebastian Sollecito, Enterprise Packers; and executive secretary (re-elected)—George Clemens, Monterey.

National Meat Canners Association

Russell M. Smith, Wilson & Co., Inc., Chicago, Ill., was elected president of the National Meat Canners Association at the annual meeting of that organization held recently. Other officers are:

First vice president—C. L. Nelson, Libby, McNeill & Libby, Chicago; second vice president—Gus Robert, The Cudahy Packing Co., Chicago; secretary (re-elected)—J. H. Moninger, Chicago; and treasurer (re-elected)—W. J. Foell, Foell Packing Co., Chicago.

Dr. Roy C. Newton Cited

The Honor Scroll of the American Institute of Chemists, which is awarded annually for distinguished service in the field of chemistry, will go this year to Dr. Roy C. Newton, vice president in charge of research for Swift & Co., Chicago, according to an announcement by the chairman of the Chicago chapter of the Institute. Dr. Newton will be remembered as a speaker at the opening general session of the 1948 Canners Convention.

Comstock Adds Salesmen

Comstock Canning Corporation, Newark, N. Y., announces the addition to its sales staff of C. A. Vickery and Edward S. Dixon. Mr. Vickery has had considerable experience in the grocery and allied fields and was formerly with the Milk Sales Division of Libby, McNeill & Libby in Chicago. Mr. Dixon was formerly labor director for Comstock.

Retail Grocery Store Sales

Sales of retail grocery and grocery-fresh-meat stores during the first quarter of 1948 were estimated at \$6,615 million, according to a report of the Department of Commerce. This represents an increase of 18 percent over retail grocery sales for the first quarter of 1947. Chain store sales accounted for 35 percent of the total or the same percentage as for the corresponding period last year.

Sales of wholesale grocers for the first quarter totaled \$2,093 million or only slightly up from sales of \$2,036 million for the first quarter of last year. The dollar value of inventories held by wholesale grocers at the end of March 1948, based on a sample of 360 firms reporting, was the same as on the same date last year.

Data on Bean Standards Mailed to Bean Cannors

The Association mailed to bean cannors this week pertinent information in connection with the bean standards issued by the Federal Security Agency. The mailing included a letter from Secretary Campbell citing N.C.A.'s service on the bean standards work, a copy of the May 15 issue of the INFORMATION LETTER reproducing the official standards, a letter from Association counsel outlining the proposed findings and regulations, and a chronology of the Association's work on the bean standards program.

LABOR

Recruitment of Farm Labor by Government Is Proposed

Chairman Clifford R. Hope on May 19 assured members of the USES special farm labor steering group that the House Committee on Agriculture is interested and would consider a proposal to authorize Federal government recruitment of foreign labor and the establishment of a revolving fund to cover transportation and other costs incident to the employment in agriculture of foreign workers.

The assurance was given following a recitation of foreign labor recruitment problems and the probable impact of national defense programs on the labor market by Robert C. Goodwin, Director of the United States Employment Service, members of the Farm Placement Service of USES, and members of the steering group of the special farm labor advisory committee to USES.

The proposal of the steering group, presented by Mr. Goodwin, is designed to put foreign labor recruitment on a government-to-government basis rather than the current individual employer contractual arrangement with foreign governments. It was pointed out that under the present arrangement the smaller employers are unable to benefit directly from a foreign labor program. Under the revolving fund proposal, the Federal government would finance the recruitment of workers and assess users of the labor a pro rata fee to cover the full cost of transportation and administration.

A similar meeting was held with members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture on May 20.

Prior to these Congressional meetings the steering group met with the USES staff. Discussion developed a general reluctance to propose that Congress reinstate a federally subsidized labor supply program. It was agreed, also, that inasmuch as Congress is working toward adjournment next month, it would be impossible to obtain final action on such a proposal at this session.

In a review of labor market conditions, Mr. Goodwin stated that 60,000,000 people are employed in the United States and that unemployment is the lowest in the history of the country. Reports, he stated, show a trend toward a tightening labor supply. Factors cited by Mr. Goodwin that may increase labor supply problems for agriculture are the European recovery program, selective service, military training, and military production.

Mold Count Article Published

The May issue of *Food Packer* contains an article by Howard R. Smith of the N.C.A. Washington Research Laboratory on "Mold Count in Tomato Products: Part I—Suggestions for Identification and Mold Filaments." The same article also appeared in March issues of the *Canning Trade* and *The Canner*.

Tin Order Amended

Amendment of Conservation Order M-81 to permit use of some tin plate in the manufacture of certain types of coffee cans was announced May 18 by the Office of Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. The changes were made following consideration of an appeal filed by coffee packers.

The changes will not result in any additional over-all use of tin inasmuch as officials said no increased allocations of tin for can-making are contemplated. The new specifications allow use of .25 lb. tin plate in soldered or welded parts of certain cans for soluble and regular coffee.

USDA Food Program Report

The chairmen of food distributors' committees in York and Lancaster, Pa., where the Agriculture Department is testing its new plan to aid retail foodstores in merchandising plentiful foods as a guide to purchasing economical foods for home consumption, have issued a statement reporting "apparent success" at the end of the first week.

The list of plentiful foods for May, six of which may be tagged "Banner Buy—A Plentiful Food" on store shelves, was published in the INFORMATION LETTER of May 1, page 190.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Information Letter		Data on bean standards mailed to bean cannors	212
Letter will be delayed to report May meeting	207	Procurement	
Statistics		New regulation establishes uniformity in purchases	210
Canned fruit pack bulletin	207	Canner not liable to QMC when weather reduces pack	210
Green pea acreage will be smaller in 1948, BAE reports	207	Invitations to bid	211
Canned fruit and vegetable stocks and shipments	208	Personnel	
Retail grocery store sales	211	Wood joins glass institute	211
Meetings		Association officers	211
FitzGerald to address Board	207	Dr. Roy C. Newton cited	211
Fisheries		Comstock adds salesmen	211
N.C.A. opposes transfer of Fish and Wildlife Service	207	Labor	
Food and Drug permits use of 'jack mackerel' label	208	Recruitment of farm labor by Government is proposed	212
Pack of anchovies, mackerel and squid for California	208	Publicity	
Congress	209	Mold count article published	212
Standards		Supplies	
Sweetpotato standards	209	Tin order amended	212
		Promotion	
		USDA food program report	212